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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/720,627	11/24/2003	Frank Rosemann	0275M-000814	4263
27572	7590	07/09/2004	EXAMINER	
HARNES, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. BOX 828 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303			WOOD, KIMBERLY T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3632	

DATE MAILED: 07/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/720,627

Applicant(s)

ROSEMANN ET AL.

Examiner

Kimberly T. Wood

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9-16, 18-24 and 26-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 8, 17 and 25 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/20/4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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This is an office action for serial number 10/720,627.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 32 recites the limitation "the deflectable projections" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The applicant has not in the previous claims claimed that the projections are deflectable or resilient.

The claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 for the above reasons. Please note that the Examiner may not have pointed out each and every example of indefiniteness. The applicant is required to review all the claim language to make sure the claimed invention is clear and definite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

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(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gombert 6,494,412. Gombert discloses a holder (16) being substantially rectangular shaped, a fastener (1) having a rectangular shaped frame, and a plug-in snap coupling (21 and 11) being a recess (11) and a two finger spring pin/plurality projections (21 and 21'), a pair of opposed legs (6 and

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6'), or a plurality of projections (10' and 10) positioned adjacent the rectangular shaped opening and inherently teaches the method of joining an par to a vehicle and the method of forming a multi-part fastener.

Claims 1-7, 9-13, 24, 26-28, 30, 31, 33, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by DE 1975273. DE discloses a concave shaped face holder (1) having spring arms/projections having fingers, and a catch, a fastener element (15) being rectangular shaped with a recess being an oblong aperture with long sides (18) and opposed ledges (between 19 and 27), and a holding pin (near 22), flange (between 21 and 24) for holding pin (22).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 13, 14, 15, 18-24, 26-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gombert 6,494,412 in view of Chung 5,881,800. Gombert discloses all of the

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limitations of the claimed invention except for the flange and holding pin. Chung teaches that it is known to have a holding pin having a flange (figure 2, elements 208 and 2080), a pair of deflectable projections (14 and 14'). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have modified Gombert to have included the holding pin and flange as a more secure means of attaching the fastener to various vehicle which have an aperture instead of plugs as attachment connections.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gombert in view of Mitotic 4,506,419. Mitotic teaches that it is known to have an oblong aperture of the recess extending greater in lengthwise direction than the width of a pin. It would have been obvious one having ordinary skill in the art to have modified Gombert to have made the recess with an oblong aperture as taught by Mitomi for the purpose of providing a better gripping area for the spring pin.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gombert in view of Chung in further view of Nelson 4,568,215. Gombert in view of Chung disclose all of the limitations of the claimed invention except for the sealing lip. Nelson teaches that it is known to have a

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flange with a sealing lip (29) with material softer than that of the flange (elements 13). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have modified Gombert to have the sealing flange as taught by Nelson for the purpose of providing a tight fit between the spring pin and the attached surface.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8, 17, and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

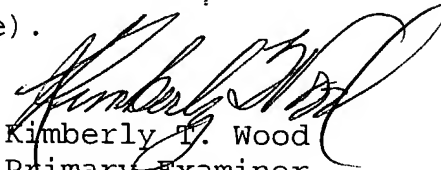
The prior art disclose conventional holder and fastener members.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly T. Wood whose telephone number is 703-308-0538. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30am to 5:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leslie Braun can be reached on 703-308-2156. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Kimberly T. Wood
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3632

June 28, 2004